

August 10, 2010

UTILITIES COMMISSION

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7:00 p.m.

The Stafford County Utilities Commission met for its regular meeting on August 10, 2010, in the A, B, C Conference Room in the Stafford County Administration Center. Commission members present were Rick Carroll, Lloyd Chittum, Bob Gibbons, Danny Kim, Bill Tignor and Clarence Young. Harry Critzer, Dale Allen, Mike Smith and Cheryl Giles were present for the Utilities Department.

Public Presentations – There were no public presentations.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes for the July 13, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

Commission Members' Comments – Mr. Tignor inquired about the status of current water levels. Mr. Critzer distributed a handout that provided the guidelines for water use restrictions and highlighted the following items:

- o Percent of usable reservoir capacity remaining
- o Percent of total water production capacity required to meet last 7 days demand
- o Estimated days of usable water remaining
- o Reservoir levels and Aquia Creek stream flow
- o Water demand for the last 7 days
- o Water use restriction levels
- o Current restriction level

Mr. Critzer reported that due to the weather forecast of rain, staff would continue to monitor the water levels before making a decision to recommend the voluntary odd/even watering use restriction.

Mr. Gibbons requested staff send updates of the reservoir levels to Commission members. Mr. Critzer responded that staff could provide the information weekly and place the reservoir levels on the county website where it could be updated and viewed daily.

Director's Report – Mr. Critzer reported the following items:

- ♣ Malcolm Pirnie will provide an assessment of the Water and Sewer CIP with emphasis on Aquia Harbour's infrastructure to explain how we compare to peer localities and nationwide on the percentage of asset value that is spent on 3R projects.
- ♣ A meeting has been scheduled with Malcolm Pirnie on Monday, August 16th for their recommendation on the Odor Assessment & Control Study for the Falls Run PS and Falmouth bottom area.

Mr. Allen reported the following survey results, as of August 10, 2010, for the Coal Landing Road Sewer project:

- ♣ Two property owners are interested in the project.
- ♣ Two property owners, who represent seven lots, are not interested in the project.
- ♣ No reply has been received from the remaining 12 property owners.
- ♣ Of the survey results received, none reported a drainfield failure.

Following discussion about the logistics and cost of the proposed project to property owners, Mr. Gibbons suggested that the Aquia District Supervisor be notified about the project. Mr. Kim, the Aquia District Commission member, agreed to contact the Supervisor and inform him about the project.

Mr. Gibbons made a motion to defer action on the project until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tignor and passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

Water Conservation Rate – Mr. Critzer reported that at the July 13th meeting, Commission members passed a motion to maintain the water conservation rate at \$23.55 but provide a waiver for new homeowners to allow them to do the necessary watering to get the County-mandated sod established. In January 2009, the Board adopted

Resolution R09-21, which approves a policy allowing the Department of Utilities to grant a one-time conservation rate adjustment to customers meeting one of two criteria:

1. They were unaware of the new conservation rate.
2. Extenuating circumstances caused them to use more water than normal.

Staff asked the County Attorney if the County's sod ordinance could be considered an "extenuating circumstance". The County Attorney responded the issue was a policy issue and could be authorized by the Director or County Administrator.

After some discussion, Commission members recommended maintaining the \$23.55 water conservation rate and using the "extenuating circumstances" in Resolution R09-21 as an option for new homeowners impacted by the sod ordinance for a one-time waiver of the \$23.55 water conservation rate.

New Business:

Urban Development Area and Comp Plan – Jeff Harvey, Director of Planning, distributed and highlighted information regarding the state code section of the Comp Plan that describes the Urban Development Areas (UDAs), a table listing the Land Use Map Growth Plan Projections, and a draft copy of the Urban Service Area map.

Mr. Harvey reported the state code requires that UDAs be in place by July 1, 2012. The following Urban Service Areas were recommended by the Joint Committee:

1. Boswell's Corner
2. Courthouse Area
3. Southern Gateway
4. Stafford Station
5. George Washington Village
6. Brooke Station
7. Eskimo Hill
8. Centerport
9. Leeland Town Station

The Planning Commission has tentatively scheduled a public hearing for the Land Use Plan to be held in September or October.

Following Mr. Harvey's presentation, Mr. Gibbons commented that he is concerned how the water and sewer infrastructure will overlay the UDAs and how the capacity for the UDAs will be met by the County. Mr. Harvey responded the state code requires the county to accommodate for its planning and the county is planning for the accommodation of the UDAs.

Mr. Gibbons commented staff should be involved with the Planning Department in determining what the capacity will be for the UDAs and prioritizing which areas should be added to the UDAs.

Mr. Gibbons requested staff mail a copy of the Urban Services Area map which displays the UDAs with an overlay of water and sewer to Commission members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Tignor,
Recording Secretary